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Am Riedhoff P. am 12.12.02

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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Propriétaire/Titulaire Ciba Specialty Chemicals Holding Inc.	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

abstract

title

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: NONE



REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

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Method for the preparation of a comb copolymer comprising

a) polymerising in a first step one or more epoxy group containing monomers to obtain a polyether, wherein at least one monomer is of formula (I)

wherein L is a linking group selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{18} alkylene, phenylene, phenylene- C_1 - C_{18} alkylene, C_1 - C_{18} alkylene-phenylene, C_1 - C_{18} alkylene-phenylene-oxy and C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkylene;

R_p and R_q are independently tertiary bound C_4 - C_{28} alkyl groups which are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more electron withdrawing groups or by phenyl; or

R_p and R_q together form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring which is substituted at least by 4 C_1 - C_4 alkyl groups and which may be interrupted by a further nitrogen or oxygen atom; and in a second step

b) adding to the polymer obtained in step a) at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer, heating the resulting mixture to a temperature where cleavage of the nitroxylether bond occurs and radical polymerization starts;

and polymerizing to the desired degree.